

Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)

St. Louis Catholic School

January 12, 2006

ATTENDEES	
Patrick Robins – CSAC Co-Chair Connie Gemma – CSAC Treasurer Valerie Devine – CSAC Co-Secretary Rosanne Morris - Principal Giulia Di Carlo - Teaching Staff Louisa Senatore – Administrative Assistant	
Angela Belair Oriana Bono Edmund Bringas Gina DePetrillo	Blanca Gonzalez Margaret Kalsi Claudette Piscione

Prayer – For Catholic Education

O, Holy Spirit, source of truth and grace for those entrusted with the Christian development of children, enlighten our minds, strengthen our will, fill our hearts with generosity so that our homes, our parishes and our schools may co-operate effectively with You, and with one another in the mission of Catholic Education. We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Robins:

- welcomed all
- informed all present that his Co-Chair, Mrs. McDonald had resigned due to conflicts with other commitments. All present joined in wishing Mrs. McDonald, well.

Approval of the Minutes from November 24, 2005

The Minutes from November 24th were approved by Ms. Gemma, with a second approval by Ms. Devine.

Principal's Comments

Ms. Morris wished everyone a Happy New Year and indicated:

- great number of reasons to celebrate since we last met on November 24th
Curriculum Initiatives and Directions/Local School Action Planning:
 - Local School Action Planning process is underway
 - divisional meetings of teachers for conversations about curriculum design and curriculum strategies is underway
 - creation of a template of local directions in literacy: early reading strategy, early writing strategy, early math strategy is underway
 - professional learning community development and expansion is underway
 - template is due in the superintendent's office by end of this month
 - numerous professional development inservices sponsored by the Ministry of Education secretariat continue
 - divisional meetings provide opportunity for ongoing professional dialogue in a planned way, a guided way is underway
 - 5th Block visitors from across the city visited St. Louis on December 15th – very positive professional sharing experience about this highly innovative early literacy program – we are one of the few schools who have this 5th Block program and Mrs. Cousineau is gathering data for the Board, about the positive results of this program

- February is Registration Month for Kindergarten enrolment:
 - there are currently 281 students enrolled at St. Louis and we can increase enrolment by:
 - spreading the word on the street
 - Mrs. Piscione and Ms. Devine have agreed to help Ms. Morris distribute flyers to the homes in this area
 - Mrs. Senatore has been instrumental in helping with the registration and enrolment strategy which is currently being developed
 - Open House to welcome new parents will be held on February 16th at 7 p.m. If needed, there will be another Open House scheduled at a later date
 - A suggestion by one of the parents present was made that a 'before and after school' program would attract more students to the school and Ms. Morris indicated there are no immediate plans to have St. Louis host such a program – however, we could look into the YMCA program which has very stringent parameters and if approved, could be held at St. Louis

- Parent Discussion Forums: Topics of Interest:
 - Daniela Mares, TCDSB Psychology Department will present “Emotional Intelligence and Your Child”, on February 21st at 7:00 p.m.. Daniela Mares will provide a flyer to be sent to the parent community prior to her presentation
 - this is intended to be the first of other evenings of interest to the parent community

- Enrichment Activities Since Our Last Meeting:
 - the Grades 3 and 4 students attended a play ('Bunnicula') at the Young People's Theatre – which they enjoyed very much.
 - the Grade 1 and 2 students enjoyed a trip to Pioneer Village
 - Ms. Morris, on behalf of the teachers and students, thanked CSAC for the cost of buses
 - many students heard readings of CS Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", in class, before seeing the film "Narnia" at the theatre
 - Tomorrow, January 13, 2006, Canada Council will be sponsoring a workshop entitled: '411 Initiative for Change — A Community Building/Anti-violence Workshop'
 - this workshop involves a Hip Hop artist who will teach the students in Mrs. McIntyre's Grade 4 class to compose a Hip Hop song and a CD on anti-violence will be produced by the class at the end of this workshop
 - this is a good news story in a city deeply troubled by issues of violence: CBS Metro Morning (The Andy Barrie Show) and possibly Global TV, will cover the events
 - media releases specific to this event, have been obtained from parents

- CSAC Monetary Contributions to School Programs:
 - Ms. Morris asked Ms. Gemma the Treasurer for a cheque for \$905.00, for funds approved by CSAC:
 - Artist in the School—Moudu Ekhar - \$200.00
 - Premier Agendas - \$425.00
 - Trip to Mansfield for 2 students - \$280.00
 - Ms. Morris, on behalf of the teachers and students, once again thanked CSAC for their generosity

- St. Louis Athletics:
 - Thanks to our dedicated teacher coaches!
 - Intermediate Girls and Boys Basketball now underway
 - Invitational and Divisional tournaments are coming up
 - Primary Soccer is also underway

- Liturgical Experiences Held Since Our Last Meeting:
 - Advent Mass and Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - Advent Reflection Chain of Prayers in the foyer of the school
 - First Communion preparation for the Grade 2s on Sundays after mass
 - successful Shoe Box of Hope campaign as 251 shoeboxes made their way to Peru, El Salvador and Ghana with Dr. Simone's Mission
 - successful Mitten Tree campaign to benefit the homeless shelter in Mimico
 - Confirmation Community Service Learning: Nov. 25th Leaf Shirt Day and canned food drive was successful thanks to student participation and leadership

- Christmas Concert
 - was a great success
 - Ms. Morris commented on the wonderful team-work on the part of the whole staff
 - Ms. Morris also commented on the stellar children's performances

- Hand Gel pumps:
 - were installed over the holidays, once again thanks to CSAC

- Public Health:
 - Dental Screening for students will take place on February 9th and 10th

- Fundraising
 - Aunt Sara Chocolate Bar campaign was a great success
 - Ms. Morris expressed her thanks to the parents involved in running this campaign
 - Ms. Morris also expressed her thanks to the parent community for its generosity

- Resignation
 - Ms. Morris made special mention of the resignation of our former co-chair Mrs. McDonald who contributed tirelessly in the time she served on CSAC
 - Ms. Morris thanked Mrs. McDonald for her hard work, drive and care and echoed the rest of CSAC's thoughts that we will miss Mrs. McDonald's presence at the council table

- Toronto Association of Parents in Catholic Education (TAPCE)
 - Ms. Morris and a member of CSAC have been invited to a TAPCE meeting to be held on Monday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the TCDSB, Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, 2nd Floor Atrium. The invitation is for the Commissioning Service of CSAC Liaison Representatives and is intended to promote Catholic Education and to support parents/guardians who are crucial to publicly funded Catholic Education in Toronto
 - Ms. Devine will advise Ms. Morris by next week if she (Ms. Devine) is able to attend

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Gemma indicated:

- Bank account balance: \$21,092.05
 - LESS previously committed \$5,750.89 (includes chocolate prizes & \$950 from Principal's Report above)
 - LESS (approximate) monies owed \$10,062.50

Quorums and Communication', 'Budget and Disbursement of Funds' and 'Bylaw Amendments'

- CSAC will discuss and approve these bylaws at the next CSAC meeting



"St.Louis CSAC
Bylaws.doc"

➤ CSAC Newsletter

- As Mrs. McDonald is no longer on CSAC, **Mr. Robins will provide CSAC commentary to Ms. Morris for the January monthly school newsletter. Mr. Robins will do this until further notice**
- the newsletter will be on-line on the school web-site
- **all minutes and school newsletters are now on-line, inside the St. Louis website**

➤ St. Louis Catholic School Web-site can be found at:

www.tcdsb.org/schools/stlouis.asp

➤ Tokens for the students for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Sacrament of Confirmation, the SK Graduation and the Grade 8 Graduation:

- CSAC will agree to committing funds for these tokens at the next CSAC meeting
- In past years, CSAC approved:
 - \$100 for the SK Graduation
 - \$100 for the First Holy Communion tokens
 - \$100 for the Confirmation tokens
 - \$200 for the Grade 8 Graduation tokens

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT CSAC MEETING:

7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2006 in the St. Louis Catholic School Library